

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EV 314044194US

DATED: 30 JANUARY 2004

ATTORNEY DOCKET: 3COM 2237-3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of Inventor:

Michael J. Seaman

Application No. _____

Filed: 30 January 2004 (herewith)

Title: **Spanning Tree with Protocol for
Bypassing Port State Transition Timers**

Group Art Unit: unknown

Examiner: unknown

CUSTOMER NO. 22470

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.56

Sir:

It is requested that the information identified in this statement be considered by the Examiner and made of record in the above-identified application. This statement is not intended to represent that a search has been made or that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56.

Since this is a continuation, divisional or continuation-in-part application, it is understood that the Examiner will consider all information which was considered by the Office in a parent application. MPEP 609.

Enclosed with this statement is a Form PTO-Form SB/08. The Examiner is requested to initial the form and return it to the undersigned in accordance with M.P.E.P. 609.

Copies are not submitted of documents previously submitted by the applicant in parent Application No. 09/416,827, filed 12 October 1999, Attorney Docket No. 3COM 2237-2, from which benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 is claimed, 37 C.F.R. 1.98(d)(1), with an information disclosure statement submitted in the parent application which complies with the Sept. 8, 2000 or subsequent revision of 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a-c).

This statement should be considered under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b) because it is being filed within three months of the filing date of an application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(d).

Fee Authorization. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge underpayment of any additional fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0869 (3COM 2237-3). A copy of this authorization is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

HAYNES BEFFEL & WOLFELD LLP

Date: 29 Jan 04

By: 

Mark A. Haynes, Reg. No. 30,846

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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>			Complete if Known		
			Application Number		
			Filing Date		
			First Named Inventor		
			Group Art Unit		
			Examiner Name		
Sheet	1	of	3	Attorney Docket Number	
				3COM 2237-3	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1	5,309,437		Perlman et al.	05-03-1994	
	A2	5,606,669		Bertin et al.	02-25-1997	
	A3	5,649,109		Griesmer et al.	07-15-1997	
	A4	5,734,824		Choi	03-31-1998	
	A5	5,761,435		Fukuda et al.	06-02-1998	
	A6	5,790,808		Seaman	08-04-1998	
	A7	5,878,232		Marimuthu	03-02-1999	
	A8	6,032,194		Gai et al.	02-29-2000	
	A9	6,044,087		Muller et al.	03-28-2000	
	A10	6,044,418		Muller	03-28-2000	
	A11	6,049,528		Hendel et al.	04-11-2000	
	A12	6,052,737		Bitton et al.	04-18-2000	
	A13	6,052,738		Muller et al.	04-18-2000	
	A14	6,061,362		Muller et al.	05-09-2000	
	A15	6,081,512		Muller et al.	06-27-2000	
	A16	6,081,522		Hendel et al.	06-27-2000	
	A17	6,088,536		Hendel et al.	07-11-2000	
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	A19	6,119,196		Muller et al.	09-12-2000	
	A20	6,128,666		Muller et al.	10-03-2000	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁵
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	B1							
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that Issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A21	6,188,694		Fine et al.	02-13-2001	
	A22	6,202,114		Dutt et al.	03-13-2001	
	A23	6,219,739		Dutt et al.	04-17-2001	
	A24	6,246,669		Chevalier et al.	06-12-2001	
	A25	6,246,680		Muller et al.	06-12-2001	
	A26	6,262,977		Seaman et al.	07-17-2001	
	A27	6,298,456		O'Neil et al.	10-02-2001	
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	A29	6,388,995		Gai et al.	05-14-2002	
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	A31					
	A32					
	A33					
	A34					
	A35					
	A36					
	A37					
	A38					
	A39					
	A40					

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Sheet	3	of	3
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Michael J. Seaman

Group Art Unit

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket Number

3COM 2237-3

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTSExaminer
Initials*Cite
No.¹

Include name of the author (In CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.

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C1

"Part 3: Media Access Control (MAC) Bridges," ANSI/IEEE Standard 802.1D 1998.

C2

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